



# The Afghan Bulletin

No. 7 August 2020



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### “CENSUREE A KABUL” – A new discovery

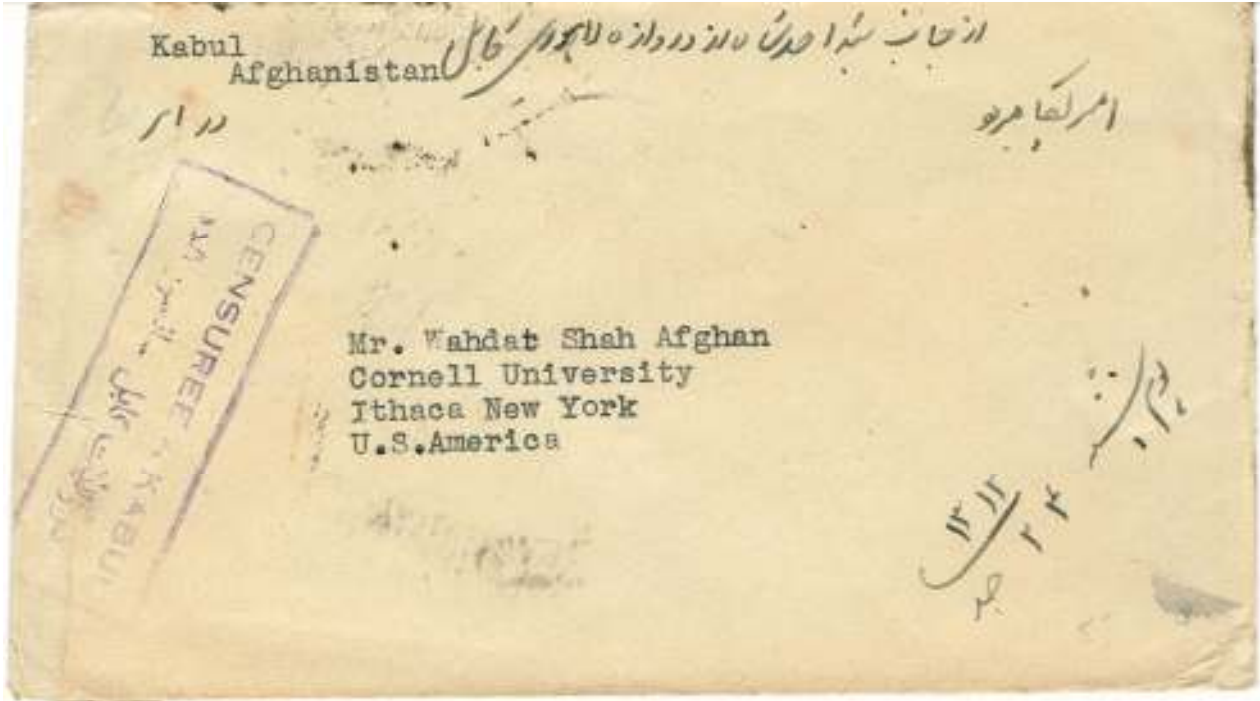
It is known that censorship was imposed in the immediate aftermath of the assassination of King Nadir Shah on the 8th November 1933. According to Patterson “all mail was closely censored until early 1934. The envelopes were resealed with an imperforate mimeographed label inscribed **Censuré à Kaboul par le Général-Gouverneur**”. Although that statement implies that the label was used for a period of about two months they are rarely seen. An example from 1st January 1934 is shown below.



Strictly speaking the “a” should be grave rather than acute and read **Censuré à Kaboul par le Gouverneur Général**, but the meaning is clear!

As usual, the air fee was paid with an Indian 6 Anna airmail stamp, unusually however the postage also seems to have been paid with Indian stamps (3 Annas 6 Pies) rather than Afghan.

What hasn't been recorded before is a boxed violet cachet reading **CENSUREE A KABUL** with Dari text beneath. Note that it is "KABUL" rather than "KABOUL". The example below is applied to both sides of a cover sent from Kabul to the USA on the 13th January 1934 (the 3 of 13 is inverted but corresponds with the Afghan date of 23 Jahdi 1312). The cover itself doesn't appear to have been opened for inspection, but it may have been handed over the counter unopened. It is franked at the normal 75 poul foreign rate, the stamps cancelled by the 1 ERE BRANCHE censor cancel.



### The rectangular Kabul censor – an interesting usage

Whilst we're on the subject of censor cancels, the cover below is an interesting example of the rectangular transit Kabul censor cancel which was introduced around about November/December 1929 and used for a couple of months until January 1930, and occasionally thereafter. This cover was sent in December 1931. The Censor cancel date is ۱۰ ۶ ۷ which equates to 29th December 1931, but as the Landikhana transit cancel is 23rd December 1931, one of them must be wrong! The rate is the normal 40 poul foreign letter rate.



The cover is addressed to His Excellency General Prince Amanullah Mirza.

Amanullah Mirza (1857-1937) was the 17th son (of 31 sons and 30 daughters) of Prince Bahman Mirza Qajar and thus a cousin of Nasr-ed Din Shah. He was born in Shusha in Russian Azerbaijan where his father was in exile. He joined the Russian army in 1879 rising to the rank of Major General. After the 1917 Russian revolution, and the formation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, he served as a Major General in the Azeri army. After the fall of the Azeri Republic he was forced to leave for Iran where he taught at the military school and participated in the formation of the regular Iranian army. He was a deputy in the Iranian Majlis (Parliament) and chairman of the Society for Iranian-Soviet Friendship. He died in 1937 in Teheran.



## A Well-Travelled Cover

Illustrated is a cover sent from Paris to Kabul in November 1931. The recipient however could not be found and it was returned to France where it arrived in February 1932 having accumulated **twenty** postal markings including the scarce KABOUL ARRIVEE.



(F) = Front (B) = Back

1. PARIS 54 RUE DES BATIGNOLES, 10.30 26 II 31 (F) x 4 (3 on stamps, 1 on cover)
2. PARIS GARE PLM-AVION 16\*26 II 31 (B)
3. MARSEILLES-GARE COTES DU RHONE 11\*27 II 31 (B)
4. Boxed KARACHI CANCELLED 9 DEC 31 cancelling airmail etiquette (F)
5. PESHAWAR? 11 DEC 31 4PM (B)
6. LANDIKHANA\*INDIAN EXCHANGE OFFICE\*12 DEC 31 (B)
7. KABOUL ARRIVEE 18 DEC 31 (B)
8. Manuscript 'Retour Inconnu' in black (also in Dari/Pasto) (F)
9. Boxed INCONNU NOT KNOWN over Dari/Pashto manuscript (B)
10. LAHORE 21 DEC 31 5. 30 PM (B)
11. Manuscript 22/12 in black (F)
12. Manuscript **DLO Lahore** and original address crossed out (F)
- 13 Manuscript **Not Known** (B)
14. **RETOUR** (F)
15. Boxed RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR (F) x 2
16. D.L.O. LAHORE 24(?) DEC 31 (B)
17. D.L.O. LAHORE 22 JAN 32 (B)
18. D.L.O. BOMBAY 25 JAN 32 (B)
19. D.L.O. BOMBAY 28 JAN 32 (B)
20. PARIS VII DISTRIBUTION 10\* 13 II 32 (F)







### For the record . . . new revenue stamps

It was inevitable that as soon as the 2nd Edition of *The Printed Paper and Revenue Stamps of Afghanistan* was published, some new discoveries would appear. So here they are . . .

First #95, previously unseen,  
can now be given a colour:  
deep rose



Next, some entirely new additions. All have the 1348 date except the 30 Afghani. They seem to belong with #183-186. So tentatively they're numbered:

- 184A 1 Afg Brown-red
- 184B 2 Afg Rose-red
- 186A 10 Afg Blue-green
- 186B 20 Afg Deep blue
- 186C 30 Afg Claret
- 186D 50 Afg Deep blue



And an entirely new type. Tentatively numbered:

- 206A 3 Afg Rosine



The 'First' set of the General revenue stamps #187-206 seem to have been produced on the cusp of the addition of the ۱۳۴۸ (1348) = 1929 date to the National Arms. Specimen stamps are known for the 4, 5 and 100 Afghani – these have no date. However, the issued stamps of all values, except the 50 and 100 Afghani, do have the date. The 1348 refers to the date of accession of the Royal dynasty of Nadir Shah after the defeat of Bacche Saqao in 1929. This version of the coat of arms was adopted in 1931.

### Another commercial use of an Appendix issue

Further to *Bulletin No. 5* another example of a commercial usage of Appendix stamps is shown below. This one bears a 50 poul and two 175 poul of the 1961 Kabul International Exhibition set, in addition to two 1 Afghani King Zahir Shah definitives. The cover was sent from Kabul to London on 29th August 1966.



It is thought that only 25,000 sets of the International Exhibition stamps were delivered to Kabul by the Agency.

### A new Arms Type (PM 5) Postmark – Bamiyan



In the mid-1920's, several post offices in the north of Afghanistan received new cancellers to replace the oval regular postmark. These new cancellers were circular and are distinctive in that they had the national coat of arms in the top segment (PM5). These are known for Badakshan, Mazar-i-Sharif, Qataghan, and Turkestan and are approximately 27mm in diameter. To that list Bamiyan can now be added.

### The 1973 'Interim' Airletter

King Zahir Shah was deposed by his cousin Mohammed Daoud on the 17th July 1973 whilst he was in Italy for medical treatment. A new airletter bearing the head of the King had just been issued in June 1973 and as an interim measure it continued in use with a 25 poul stamp applied over the King's head. It is thought that the 25 poul stamp had no bearing on the 8 Afghani value of the airletter.

A new airletter bearing an image of a plane over a globe was issued later in 1973.



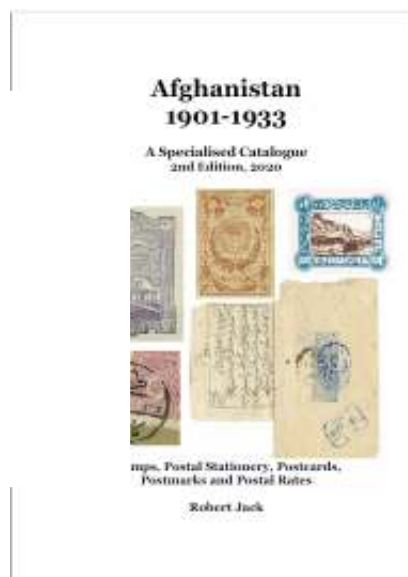
Used examples of the 'interim' airletter are scarce which would suggest that their period of use must have been quite short – only until the new design appeared a few months later. Although the postmark on the above example is indistinct, the letter inside is clearly dated 20th August 1975 which is much later than expected – perhaps an example of waste not want not?

*Afghanistan*  
1901-1933

**Second Edition**

Due: October 2020

Price: £35 +p&p



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